



**THE ADVOCATES' SOCIETY WELCOMES NEW PRESIDENT DEBORAH E. PALTER  
AT END OF TERM 2021**

For Immediate Release

June 18, 2021

The Advocates' Society (TAS) hosted hundreds of members and special guests at its annual End of Term celebration on June 17, 2021. The Society's in-person gala, that typically attracts over 1,300 members to the Metro Toronto Convention Centre each year, could not take place due to the COVID-19 pandemic, so the event was held virtually via webcast again this year.

Joining President Deborah E. Palter of Thornton Grout Finnigan LLP on the Society's 2021-2022 Executive Committee are Peter W. Kryworuk, Lerner LLP (Vice President); Dominique T. Hussey, Bennett Jones LLP (Treasurer), and Darryl Cruz, McCarthy Tétrault LLP (Secretary).

The virtual event was hosted by President Palter and featured a fireside chat with The Honourable Justice Suzanne Côté of the Supreme Court of Canada, greetings from The Rt. Honourable Richard Wagner, Chief Justice of Canada and The Hon. David Lametti, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, a tribute to outgoing President Guy J. Pratte and music from our member band The Force Majeures, made up of the following Society members from coast to coast:

- Brian Awad, Q.C., McInnes Cooper, Halifax
- Kristian Brabander, McCarthy Tétrault LLP, Montreal
- Norm Emblem, Dentons LLP, Toronto
- Oliver Ho, JSS Barristers, Calgary
- Sean McGee, RavenLaw, Ottawa
- Elin Sigurdson, Mandell Pinder LLP, Vancouver

The following awards were presented during the program.

- **The Award of Justice** presented to **David C. Nahwegahbow, IPC, LSM**, of *Nahwegahbow, Corbiere Genoodmagejig* in recognition of his substantial contribution to social justice by championing the rights and liberties that are the foundation of democracy, and in particular for his life-long commitment to reveal the truth and obtain justice for the historic and current wrongs against First Nations people. The award was presented by Kathleen Lickers, Barrister & Solicitor.
- **The Advocates' Society's Award for Excellence in Teaching** presented to **Sandra L. Barton, Gowling (WLG) Canada LLP**, recognized for being so highly valued as a teacher of advocacy skills and for devoting so much time and expertise to the Society's education programs. The award was presented by Chair of the Education Committee Darryl Cruz, McCarthy Tétrault LLP.

The following award recipients were recognized during the program:

- **Robert Frater, Q.C, Department of Justice**, recipient of the 2020 Catzman Award for Professionalism and Civility, in recognition of his knowledge of the law, civility, generosity of time and expertise, and dedication to the highest ideals of the profession.
- **Michelle M. Kelly, Q.C., Cox & Palmer**, the first recipient of the Atlantic Excellence in Mentoring Award for her dedication to mentoring young advocates in Nova Scotia.
- **Valérie Lemaire, Langlois Avocats**, recipient of the first Prix Excellence en mentorat – Québec for her commitment to mentoring young advocates.
- **Bill Morley, Q.C., Fasken Martineau DuMoulin LLP**, recipient of the inaugural Joe Arvay Award, in recognition of his contributions to legal service and the community. The award will be presented to Bill at an event to be held in BC when we can safely gather in-person.
- **Linda Rothstein, LSM, Paliare Roland Rosenberg Rothstein LLP**, recipient of The Advocates' Society Medal, which is the highest expression of esteem the Society can convey to one of its members. The award will be presented to Linda at an in-person Medal Dinner in Toronto when we can safely gather in-person.

The event concluded with a virtual after-party on zoom where members connected with their friends and colleagues in themed rooms hosted by our sponsors – MNP LLP (Premier Sponsor), RSM Canada and Omni Bridgeway.

“The Society is a nation-wide community of advocates dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in advocacy and the promotion of a fair and accessible system of justice”, new President Deborah E. Palter commented after the event. “As we begin this new term, we are committed to continuing our work on the modernization of our justice system and the advancement of meaningful access to justice for all.”

The Advocates' Society is a national professional association for advocates with nearly 6,000 members from the bench and bar across Canada. The Society is Canada's premier provider of advocacy skills training. The Society plays a prominent role in contributing to justice reform initiatives and in serving the administration of justice.

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